

June 20, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sandy Levin
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

We are writing to let you know of our companies' support of duty suspension legislation for acrylic fiber. Legislation to extend the duty suspension on acrylic fiber was introduced by Rep. Howard Coble on April 19, 2012, and the bill number is **H.R. 4447**.

Our companies manufacture products for the awning, furniture, marine and automotive industries. Because of the nature of these industries -- long-term exposure to the weather and elements (sun, rain, wind, etc.) -- we seek to manufacture products that are durable, fade and water resistant and that also provide extended warranties and value to our customers. Our ability to meet these characteristics largely depends on the quality of the fabric; and the highest-performing fabrics on the market today are those made from acrylic fibers.

Acrylic fibers are no longer produced in the United States. Therefore, an extension of the current duty suspension on these fibers is necessary and would improve the competitiveness of our companies and the various other industries that utilize these fibers. Due to the fact that all U.S. production of acrylic fiber has ceased, the continued suspension of this duty should have no adverse consequences for domestic businesses and should not attract controversy. In addition, this duty benefit will continue to be passed through the supply chain and deliver downstream benefits to us -- the customers. Conversely, if our suppliers are subjected to duties on imported acrylic fibers, these costs will also be passed through the supply chain and many of us will find it difficult to absorb these increases. This will have a negative impact on job creation and investment in our companies.

We understand that Congress has provided the duty suspension process to address situations such as this, and we strongly encourage the Committee and Congress to enact this measure prior to its expiration on December 31, 2012.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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